



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 4, 2002

In reply refer to: TNP

To: People Interested in the Grand Coulee – Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) has finalized the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project. In August, depending on your instructions to us at the beginning of the EIS process, we either sent you a copy of the draft EIS, the EIS Summary or notified you of our progress. We asked for your comments and held four public meetings. The response was great; we received about 250 comments on the draft document. Thank you for taking the time to read the document and tell us your ideas. This letter briefly describes the final EIS, outlines our next steps and tells where to call if you have questions.

The final EIS is *abbreviated*, consisting of an introduction to the document, changes to the draft EIS, copies of all comments received on the draft EIS, and our written responses to those comments. This final EIS should be used as a companion document to the draft EIS (dated August 2002), which contains the full text of the affected environment, environmental analysis, and appendices.

Schedule: Based on the public comments we have received and the analysis in the final EIS, Bonneville expects to make a decision, documented in a Record of Decision, on the actions for this project in mid-January 2003. The Record of Decision will be made available to the public and sent to those on the mailing list. If the decision is to proceed with the project, initial construction activities could begin in mid-January 2003, with completion of the project by November 2004.

For More Information: If you would like additional copies of the final EIS or of the draft EIS, please call our toll-free document request line: 1-800-622-4520. Leave a message naming the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project, the documents you would like, your name, and your complete mailing address. Information about this project is also available on our website at www.transmission.bpa.gov/projects (scroll down to select Grand Coulee-Bell). If you need more information or have any questions, please call me toll free at 1-888-276-7790, or e-mail me at makorsness@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Inez Graetzer 12-3-2002

Mark Korsness
Project Manager

Enclosure (if requested):
Final EIS

bcc: (w/o enclosure)

KN/DC

K. Nakata – DOE/EH-42

Communications – KC-7

I. Graetzer – KEC-4

T. McKinney – KEC-4

D. Eastman – KT-7

N. Tuck – KT-7

H. Adams – LC-7

J. Hilliard Creecy – T-Ditt2

K. Johnston – T-Ditt2

M. Korsness – TNP-TPP-3

Official File – KEC (EQ-14)

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